IN THE CLAIMS

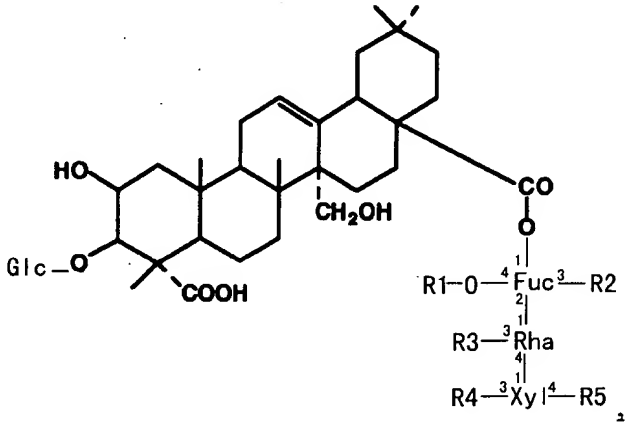
Please amend claims 1-5, as shown below. Please add new claim 16. The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listings.

1. (Currently amended) An adjuvant comprising a purified saponin compound having a presenegenin skeleton substituted at position 28 with a ~~substituted or unsubstituted~~ sugar residue substituted with a trimethoxycinnamate residue ~~at position 28~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the substituted sugar residue ~~essentially~~ comprises an apiose residue as its substituent when the substituted sugar residue is tetra-substituted.

2. (Currently amended) The adjuvant of claim 1, wherein the substituted ~~or unsubstituted~~ sugar ~~residue directly linked to the presenegenin skeleton at position 28~~ is a sugar residue containing 3 or more carbon atoms.

3. (Currently amended) The adjuvant of claim 2, wherein the sugar residue is a substituted ~~or unsubstituted~~ fucose residue.

4. (Currently amended) The adjuvant of claim 3, wherein the saponin compound is represented by the formula:



wherein Glc indicates glucose residue; Fuc, fucose residue; Rha, rhamnose residue; Xyl, xylose residue; R1, ~~monomethoxy cinnamate residue or~~ trimethoxycinnamate residue; R2, H or

rhamnose residue; R3, H or apiose residue; R4, H or arabinose residue; and R5, H or galactose residue.

5. (Currently amended) The adjuvant of claim 4, wherein the adjuvant comprises at least one of the saponin compounds selected from the group consisting of:

~~(a) a compound where R1 is monomethoxycinnamate residue, R2 is rhamnose residue, R3 is apiose residue, R4 is H, and R5 is galactose residue;~~

(a) ~~(b)~~ a compound where R1 is trimethoxycinnamate residue, R2, R3, and R4 are H, and R5 is galactose residue;

(b) ~~(c)~~ a compound where R1 is trimethoxycinnamate residue, R2 is H, R3 is apiose residue, R4 is arabinose residue, and R5 is H; and

(c) ~~(d)~~ a compound where R1 is trimethoxycinnamate residue, R2 is H, R3 is apiose residue, and R4 and R5 are H.

6. (Original) The adjuvant of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the saponin compound is prepared from a crude drug.

7. (Original) A vaccine preparation comprising the adjuvant of any one of claims 1 to 6.

8. (Original) The vaccine preparation of claim 7, wherein the vaccine preparation is to be inoculated intranasally or orally.

9. (Original) The vaccine preparation of claim 8, wherein the vaccine preparation comprises, as a vaccine, antigens from one or more pathogenic microorganisms selected from the group consisting of influenza virus, rotavirus, measles virus, rubella virus, mumps virus, AIDS virus, *Bordetella pertussis*, diphtheria bacillus, *Helicobacter pylori*, enterohaemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* (EHEC), *Chlamydia*, *Mycoplasma*, *Plasmodium*, coccidium, and schistosome.

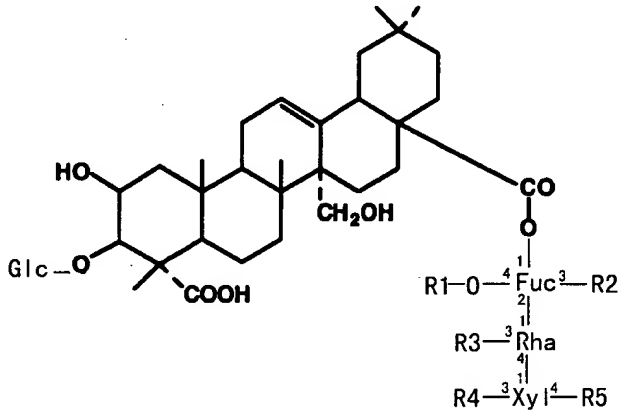
10. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of enhancing the immunological activity of vaccine, said method comprising inoculating the vaccine with a saponin compound having a presenegenin skeleton substituted at position 28 with a ~~substituted or unsubstituted~~ sugar residue substituted with a trimethoxycinnamate residue ~~at position 28~~, where the

substituted sugar residue ~~essentially~~ comprises an apiose residue as its substituent when the substituted sugar residue is tetra-substituted.

11. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the substituted ~~or unsubstituted~~ sugar residue ~~directly linked to the presenegenin skeleton at position 28~~ is a sugar residue containing 3 or more carbon atoms.

12. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the sugar residue is a substituted ~~or unsubstituted~~ fucose residue.

13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the saponin compound is represented by the formula:



wherein Glc indicates glucose residue; Fuc, fucose residue; Rha, rhamnose residue; Xyl, xylose residue; R1, ~~monomethoxy cinnamate residue or~~ trimethoxycinnamate residue; R2, H or rhamnose residue; R3, H or apiose residue; R4, H or arabinose residue; and R5, H or galactose residue.

14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the saponin compound is selected from the group consisting of

~~(a) a compound where R1 is monomethoxycinnamate residue, R2 is rhamnose residue, R3 is apiose residue, R4 is H, and R5 is galactose residue;~~

(a) ~~(b)~~ a compound where R1 is trimethoxycinnamate residue, R2, R3, and R4 are H, and R5 is galactose residue;

(b) ~~(c)~~ a compound where R1 is trimethoxycinnamate residue, R2 is H, R3 is apiose residue, R4 is arabinose residue, and R5 is H; and

(c) ~~(d)~~ a compound where R1 is trimethoxycinnamate residue, R2 is H, R3 is apiose residue, and R4 and R5 are H.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the saponin compound is prepared from a crude drug.

16. (New) The vaccine preparation of claim 8, wherein the vaccine preparation comprises, as a vaccine, antigens from one or more pathogenic microorganisms selected from the group consisting of influenza virus, rotavirus, measles virus, rubella virus, mumps virus, AIDS virus, *Bordetella pertussis*, and diphtheria bacillus.